II

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR SELECT COMMITTEE ON DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES AMENDMENT BILLS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" In respect of the Bills of Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao and Mr. P. Anjaneyulu respectively, I appoint Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar as Chairman of the Select Committee." 12 noon.

The Council will now take up the resolution of Mr. Bheemayya.

III

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF KISTNA, GODAVARI EAST AND GODAVARI WEST.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, at this stage, I should like to put my case with regard to the necessity of enquiring into the economic conditions of the tract where resettlement is proposed. The Special Settlement officer in making recommendations for rates in the uplands and the dry lands has brushed aside this question by a remark which shows the mentality of the officer. He says that any readjustment is only a matter of annas. Well, Sir, this country has been proved to be proverbially poor, and if the Godavari and Kistna districts appear as a somewhat green patch upon the map of the Andhra districts, they are not certainly above normal and there are a large number of poor ryots even in those districts. The voters' list of those districts which consists of only tens of thousands of people on the basis of an assessment of ten rupees is positive proof that to a large number of people in those districts annas do count. This kind of argument that annas do not count has been elsewhere also adduced. It was adduced when we talked of the taxation on salt. It was adduced when we talked of duties. It is adduced in all conceivable places, and we are told that we have to pay annas, annas and annas, which all make up rupees, hundreds, thousands, lakhs and crores.

" Now, Sir, my second reason why I want this enquiry into the economic conditions in this tract is that the Government itself has recognized that as a basis for resettlement economic conditions have to be examined. The Special Settlement Officer has devoted a whole chapter, chapter 4, to discussing the economic condition of the area he treats, and he has devoted 30 pages to this question out of a report covering 75 pages. And that is a very good justification for me to urge that before you have made a real and proper economic survey of the tract through proper channels and by a proper agency it is not right that you should impose resettlement rates upon that tract. Increase of population in the tract is not of much account to the Settlement officer. Agriculture which is the only occupation of the people and the absence of other occupations is of no concern to him. Increase of the standard of living which has been brought into this country by foreign contact, increase to an extent which was not dreamt of twenty or thirty years ago, increase which must be rated at four or five times what it was when the last settlement took place is not taken into consideration. No family budgets have been examined. There is an examination of the holdings. But an examination of the holdings in relation to the increase of population is not at all made. When we come to cultivation expenses, what is taken into account is the expenditure upon Government farms. We do not know how the figures are arrived at there,